

JULY 2011

VOLUME TWO

ISSUE SIX

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Three Fires Indian Trail, bioswales and
summertime entertainment — p. 6**

\$1
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Happy one-year anniversary, Groundcover News!

by Susan Beckett
Publisher

The Venture

One year ago we published the first issue of Groundcover, wondering if we had printed enough copies to satisfy the hordes of people attending Art Fair, hoping people would buy the paper, give it and the people selling it a chance.

There were many naysayers who contended our urban areas were just too lightly populated to support such a venture. One of the more supportive members of Mayor's Downtown Marketing Taskforce asserted, "The market will determine whether or not there is a need."

Based on feedback from our patrons, there is a need for wide-ranging

community news reporting, making connections with other people, and having a tangible way to be part of the solution to a troubling societal problem.

Regarding the Art Fair, it turned out to be one of our most dismal sales periods. We, and all other non-Art Fair vendors, were excluded from selling in all the downtown and campus areas. We will have a presence in the non-profit area this time and hope for better results.

Based on our experience with football Saturdays, however, we expect we will be relying on our Washtenaw County customer base, since visitors are unfamiliar with the purpose of the paper and generally avoid all attempts to inform them.

Our all-volunteer writers, designers and editors have been so generous with their time and talents. Donations of computers, office supplies, legal advice and even a writing workshop have helped us keep our costs to a minimum.

Thanks in large part to our committed advertisers and donors, we have banked enough to help us through the slow end-of-summer months. Our circulation numbers are creeping up around 3,500 but we have yet to hit the steep growth curve achieved by our exemplar, the *Contributor*, whose circulation in the Nashville area regularly exceeds 100,000. Like us, they publish monthly. They, however, have the option of selling to people in vehicles and have found many eager patrons at the exits of fast food restaurants. We hope to learn more from Nashville when we head out there

this fall to attend the North American Street Newspaper Association (NASNA) conference they are hosting this year.

Religious institutions inviting us in to sell sustained us through the harsh winter months when downtown pedestrians were few and far between. While we also sell along the sidewalks of downtown churches, our vendors and the congregants of the 10 or so places who invite us in have formed a special bond. We have also started selling at several churches in Ypsilanti. Depot Town and the Thursday night Cruise Nights in Ypsilanti have become good venues for selling Groundcover.

We are extending our reach into Ypsilanti this summer and recruiting

see ONE YEAR, page 5

The quiet powerhouse behind the paper



by Laurie Lounsbury
Editor

When I first met Susan Beckett and saw a petite, unassuming woman,

I had my doubts as to whether or not she was up to the task of launching such an enormous undertaking as a street newspaper. Then I went to a downtown merchants' meeting with her and all doubts were erased.

Susan sweetly answered the questions of merchants, and deftly sidestepped their criticisms of our new project. By the end of the meeting, the prevailing attitude of quite a few merchants was that we should postpone – indefinitely – our launch of the street newspaper until we received appropriate amounts of input from all the downtown business owners.

I can't remember her exact words, but in the nicest of ways, Susan made it abundantly clear that she was not going to do any such thing. We were there as a courtesy to them, to explain what we were doing. Period. No delays, no concessions. She was going to stick with her plan to provide homeless people with a means to an end, the end being shelter and the means being newspaper sales.

As we left the meeting and walked back to our parked cars on that crisp, spring day, I shared some of my own concerns with Susan – should we wait until we have a full complement of writers? Who will sell ads for us? Should we wait until we have our

501(c)3 nonprofit status, so we can take donations and write grants?

"If we wait for all of that to happen, we'll never get started," Susan told me with conviction.

I thought she was crazy. I've been indirectly involved with businesses that started up too soon, the owners long on enthusiasm yet short on planning, and have seen them fail as quickly as they started.

But there was no deterring Susan, so I jumped on board as the editor, writer, web designer, and the person who straightens the office doormat when needed.

For the next few months, we found ourselves staying up until 2 or 3 a.m. the evening before we went to press. We had volunteer, amateur writers whose work needed quite a bit of editing. I hadn't laid out a newspaper in years, and my design skills were rusty (hence, no page numbers on the first issue).

As the months rolled on, Susan continued to sell ads, take donations, write stories, train vendors and do whatever else was needed to keep the paper afloat. I stuck to the writing, editing, photography and design while Susan oversaw everything else.

Now, one year later, I see the fruits of our efforts in the nicest of places and ways. I can walk downtown and count on getting a hug or two from newspaper vendors who call to me from across the street.

I have strangers who recognize me, come up and say, "I love what you're doing! What a great thing for this community!"

I see vendors taking their first stab at writing, shy and awkward at first, then growing more assured with their writing style as they gain self-confidence.

When I started this project with Susan one year ago, I had recently been laid off and was looking for freelance work that paid money.

"I don't think I can pay you for the first issue," Susan said demurely.

That was 11 unpaid issues ago, and I, like everyone else, am still working on a volunteer basis. And it no longer matters. We're here because we got hooked on the project. When you sit at a writers' meeting with a group of homeless people and volunteers, each looking happy, dedicated and earnest, you're hooked. When you see vendors taking pride in developing their own personal sales style, you're hooked. When you get a hug from a vendor who shares an amusing anecdote about their day, you're hooked.

And when you see homeless people moving into apartments because they now have the income to provide for themselves, you're really hooked.

Happy Anniversary to all the people involved with *Groundcover*. We couldn't have done it without you.

GROUNDCOVERNEWS

MISSION:

Groundcover News exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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How We Carry It

by Rev. Dr.
Martha
Brunell
Pastor,
Bethlehem
United

Church of Christ

Mary Oliver is one of my favorite contemporary poets. In her poem "Heavy" she reflects on grief and other heavy burdens we carry. She references the wise words of her friend Daniel in that poem. According to Daniel, it is not a question of how much weight we carry but how we carry

it. The "it" can be something tangible or a matter of our hearts and spirits. I keep the words of this poem close to me when I am coping with something heavy and wonder how I am going to pick it up, shoulder it, and lug it around until it is time to let it down or let it go.

Homelessness and related issues in Washtenaw County are in the "heavy" category. They are indeed a burden. Wrapping our arms around such issues and making a difference is a challenge. There is the

temptation to be overwhelmed. We all know these realities are not going to disappear overnight. A quick solution isn't in the wings or just around the corner. There is considerable weight here that we are going to have to heft for awhile.

When Mary Oliver was in the midst of grief's heaviness, she had the gracious counsel of her friend Daniel. As we face the substance of homelessness and the issues that swirl around it, we have the presence of *Groundcover* to remind us to consider how we carry this

weight. First of all, we carry it together. *Groundcover* requires the participation of lots of us. There are varied tasks to share. Many, many efforts are needed. Secondly, we carry it creatively. We make something significant happen, one issue after another. The monthly rhythm of the paper is a good way to practice working over the long haul, step by step, on the broad and deep situation of homelessness. And thirdly, we carry it joyfully. This paper is a beautiful and honest articulation of life that is and life that we imagine. The energy of being alive and

our enthusiasm fill the pages of each month's paper. This is not a journalistic attempt to pretend away the struggle, but rather an attempt to tap the dreams and grit we each bring to the table.

We are a community confronting a heaviness that we have willingly embraced. In the ups and downs of putting out a paper, may we never forget that how we do this matters. We can choose to do it together creatively, and with joy. Those choices I celebrate with all of you.

No one will hear the silent voice

by La Shawn
Groundcover News Vendor

It has been my experience that the one voice that is, has not, and will not be heard is a silent voice. We all have a voice. My voice has come and arrived because I feel as if I don't need to await a bully anymore to speak or voice what I have to say. I'm not even totally involved yet in all that *Groundcover* offers, and emergently I feel the desire and need to deliver the chronicles of my being.

I have yet to fully explore and live out the promise that when we speak, we are heard; we then bring our audience together so that we may awe one another with new inspiration and a renewed sense of our own vitality.

Right before my encounter with the supportive staff of workers of the *Groundcover* circular, I'd thought a lot and often of how and when I could reach my podium to introduce my conversations. I feel as though my moment of clarity has arrived and this is my home.

I can speak personally to the idea that listening – I mean really lending your ear to hear a vast array of experiences – ushers us into a greater awareness of who we are and of that which may be as yet undiscovered.

That task of staying receptive to possibility is a great one.) We must be available to discover the light of newness that will encompass and invigorate our whole being and its abilities.

I like to write about things that chal-

lenge me and make me think outside of the box. Now having said this, what I'm implying is that it is okay to think outside the box – as long as it doesn't kick you off your square.

I believe the greatest thing inside of us is the ego that we neglect to feed. We sometimes encourage others more than we do ourselves. Perchance it's true: how can another have hope in you when you don't, won't, or think that you can't hope for yourself? In sum, always be able to put yourself first as you are thinking of others.

Letters to the Editor

Good work, Groundcover!

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the May issue of *Groundcover News*. I have always appreciated the thoughtful articles but I think that issue was the best yet. I also appreciate your publication's mission to support and engage those who are homeless in our community. Thank you and your staff and your writers for making this publication possible.

Best regards,
Pat Micks

Medicare/Medicaid Priced Off Limits to the Poor?

Dear Editor,

The most recent GOP proposal to 'reform' Medicare and Medicaid seek to privatize their administration. Among the bad things this would do for the average person is eliminate cost of living adjustments. ALL future cost increases would be billed directly to the consumer.

With the medical portion of inflation running over 15% annually, the increasing co-pays would soon become unaffordable to many current recipients. This, in turn, would widen the current survival gap, wherein upper income people now live five to twenty years longer than comparable poor people.

Because Canada has a more advanced health care financing system, this gap is much more negligible among their population. American society works at its best when our efforts and resources are focused toward greater human equality. (Congressional Hotline 1-800-270-0309)

Sincerely,
Paul Lambert

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(between William and Packard)

www.bethlehem-ucc.org (734) 665-6149

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover Office

Sundays:

8:30 am and 10:00 am ~ Worship

10:00 am ~ Summer Church School

July Note:

When attending the Ann Arbor Art Fair,
plan to park at Bethlehem Church.

All proceeds will be used to support
youth and young adult activities.

an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy

Ann Arbor 350: Taking on Climate Change Locally

by Andrew Nixon
Groundcover Contributor

The Big Picture: Earth at a Crossroads

While politicians and talking heads continue to squabble and squirm over the issue of climate change, a truly global movement of concerned citizens and visionary leaders already convinced of the urgency of the situation and the need for bold and decisive action is converging around a single idea.

That idea? 350.

Course-change supporters ranging from James Hanson, the first climate scientist to warn the world about the dangers of global warming over two decades ago, to the chair of the U.N.'s Nobel Prize-winning International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), have been outspoken in calling 350, as environmental writer Bill McKibben and founder of 350.org puts it, "the most important number on the planet."

So what is it?

350 is the level of carbon dioxide in our planet's atmosphere (measured in parts per million, or ppm) that most climate scientists now agree we must return to if we are to avoid worst-case scenarios of climate impacts already taking effect. Higher CO₂ concentrations could wreak irreparable havoc on the planet's ecosystems and threaten to bring human civilization to its knees.

"The question isn't whether or not the world is warming, but how quickly it will become uninhabitable if we keep emitting carbon," stated McKibben in a blog entry. Many experts believe the time humanity has to work with for averting dangerous climate tipping points all but guaranteeing this fate is quickly running out.

For most of human history, atmospheric CO₂ levels hovered around 275 ppm. Beginning about two centuries ago, continually intensifying burning of our planet's fossil fuel deposits has released millions of years of earth-bound carbon back into the air at a faster rate than our planet's forests and oceans can absorb, raising CO₂ levels to an unprecedented – and still rising – 390 ppm today. These elevated levels of carbon dioxide and other so-called "greenhouse gases" already have been linked to a host of observed climate impacts, from rising average global temperatures, to the alarmingly rapid melting of the polar ice caps and greater extremes in weather patterns. Most climate scientists now believe that by bringing this number back down to

the "safe zone" of 350 over the next few decades, we can keep an already emerging global crisis within the bounds of manageability. Failure to curb this wayward trend in sufficient time will likely have disastrous and potentially irreversible consequences – for large portions of humanity and for countless other species who share this planet.

The governments of 112 nations have endorsed the 350 target. Some have come on board because they see sustainable, climate-conscious economic development as the smartest way forward. Others, like Micronesia – the entirety of which could be under water within this century due to sea level changes – see it as the only way forward. The U.S. is conspicuously not on this list. Other nations, including China, are only waiting for the U.S. to commit before they come aboard.

The Local Scene

In the absence of federal-level leadership on this issue, many states and municipalities have taken on climate change themselves. In 2009, a Governor-appointed committee, whose members included Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieffe and Mike Garfield of the award-winning Ecology Center, produced a Climate Action Plan for the state of Michigan. The rigorous energy strategy aims to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 2005 levels by 2050 – saving about \$10 billion in the process.

Several climate change initiatives here in the Ann Arbor area reinforce its reputation for being a hub of "green" leadership. The City itself has had a comprehensive energy plan in place since the early '80s, and belongs to a number of notable energy-related programs – including the international campaign Cities for Climate Protection, which it joined in 1997. City-sponsored energy initiatives include the use of biodiesel fuel in city vehicles and a landfill gas-to-energy project; all told, these initiatives have resulted in a reduction of well over 1 million metric tons of CO₂ since 1991. In 2006, the City Council affirmed bold, new energy goals for "green" fuels in the municipal vehicle fleet and greenhouse gas reductions for the community as a whole. Although the City fell slightly short of its 2010 targets, it still has made significant progress towards its goals and remains a key player in local climate protection efforts, says Nate Geisler, Energy Programs Associate for the city's Energy Office.



An Ann Arbor family plants a 350 garden in a raised bed.

"We [the City] are getting more and more engaged in sustainability planning in the community – so a lot is still coming down the pipe," says Geisler. The Energy Office is currently in the process of a citywide greenhouse gas inventory, which will give officials essential data for identifying ways to improve the community's energy profile.

At the helm of community-level climate protection efforts is Ann Arbor 350, an initiative housed at the Ecology Center and drawing support from several other local sustainability organizations.

"The reason [climate change] is important to us as a community," says Monica Patel, coordinator of Ann Arbor 350, "is that climate change means weather-related disasters and other things that we might not be prepared for – things that probably are going to affect our population disproportionately. It's not necessarily about tree-hugging. It's about being prepared as a community for change and for disasters, and being confident that we've done all we can to prevent and reduce the scale of catastrophe."

Launched in the fall of 2009 on the International Day of Climate Action – which CNN called "the most widespread day of political action in our planet's history" – Ann Arbor 350 serves as an umbrella organization connecting numerous already-existing sustainability initiatives in four areas: food, transportation, household and commercial energy, and "reskilling" strategies

that prepare community members for less energy-intensive living.

Together with its partners, Ann Arbor 350 has sponsored a series of community events aimed at educating and empowering the community to respond effectively to the demands of a changing climate.

For last October's Garden Challenge, free raised-bed garden kits and compost were distributed to residents and schools to promote a healthy, homegrown food supply. Nearly 200 "350 Gardens" throughout town were registered and Google-mapped, ranging from humble 4-by-4-foot parcels to a large installment of eight beds at Dicken Elementary School.

In February, Ann Arbor 350 teamed

see Climate, page 7

"THE BEST RIBS IN TOWN!"
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We grill at your backyard party

**Large Pizza Special
2 Regular Toppings
\$11.50**

**10% off any backyard
catering event over
\$100.00**

Why greater equality makes societies stronger

The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone

by Richard Wilkinson
and Kate Pickett
© 2009

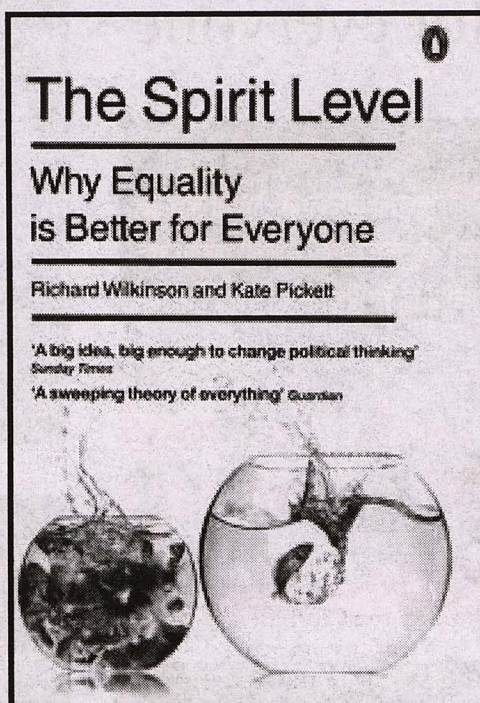
Published by Bloomsbury Press, New York

(A book review by David KE Dodge: June 2011)

The Spirit Level is among the three most important books I have read in the last ten years.

The authors rely heavily on statistics to make a convincing argument that the average well-being of the residents of each of the world's nations is likely to improve as the income gap between the rich and the poor gets smaller.

The statistical presentation of the authors is highly dependent on graphs, which I found most illuminating. If a picture is worth a thousand words, some of the graphs in this book are worth ten thousand. The authors start their presentation with a graph showing that among both the "poor" and "rich" nations (as classified according to per capita income), life expectancy tends to increase as national income per person



increases. The graph shows that the average life expectancy of residents can vary greatly among nations having average income less than \$10,000. However, as average income increases beyond \$10,000, the average life expectancy remains consistently high but it increases little. This may not be surprising since the modicum of health care necessary to reach old age is probably modest in price compared to the health care costs of significantly increasing life expectancy beyond 70 or 80 years. With this graph, the authors

make their point: "Only in its early stages [in each nation] does economic development boost life expectancy."

The authors make a similar argument with other empirical criteria of well-being, and propose that increasing the gross national product of a developed nation may not be the most effective strategy for increasing the well-being of its populace. Using impressively convincing graphical depiction, the authors posit that reducing the gap between a developed nation's highest and lowest incomes can greatly enhance not just the average well-being of that nation's populace, but the absolute well-being of both that nation's poor and rich.

The authors go on to eloquently express criticisms of the economic and political realities of the U.S. which I have long held, in at least vague realization. I was also moved and relieved of much despair by the authors' sense of optimism and by their practical proposals for reform. Practical, initial steps that can be taken to start implementing those reforms are discussed on the final two pages, after the index - "The Equality Trust."

The authors back up their information with extensive references to apparently

authoritative sources. I was predisposed to trust the authors' judgment, in part because I felt an affinity to their social/moral orientation, but mainly because the authors would have little to gain from providing spurious evidence to support their presentation; there would be scholars aplenty more than glad to expose such chicanery. After writing most of this review, I did find some scholars critical of the book. An ongoing discussion between the authors and critics, along with a Youtube debate, can be found with an internet search. A book by one of these critics is entitled, *The Spirit Level Delusion: Fact Checking the Left's New Theory of Everything*, by Christopher Snowden.

I await a copy of Snowden's book, and consider reading it necessary before admitting the premises of *The Spirit Level* into my world-view of the social problems of our country, and what might help to ameliorate them. I may have more to say, such as a review of Snowden's text, in a future issue of this newspaper.

The Spirit Level is in the Ann Arbor District Library collection. I was unable to obtain a copy of *The Spirit Level Delusion* from either the AADL or Michigan's inter-library loan system.

One year - Groundcover publisher has eye on future goals

continued from page 2

new vendors at the community meals offered there, as well. We have just begun the process of getting permits to sell in Dexter, too.

The Impact

Many of the vendors we trained to sell Groundcover soon found regular employment or left town, while some found the work too arduous or unsuited to their personalities. Of the 13 who stuck with it to the level we consider established, seven have maintained their housing situation and four have become housed. Three have gained regular employment and it looks hopeful for a couple more. Four are continuing their educations at Washtenaw Community College. Twelve of those who sell Groundcover have also had their work published in it.

In honor of our one year anniversary, we are pleased to feature a record six pieces written by our vendors. There was an impressive display of collaboration and teamwork that went into the piece on the reactions of

Groundcover vendors to being passed over in favor of panhandlers.

Our core vendors have formed a mutually supportive and respectful community. They banded together to initiate, organize and finance our Art Fair booth. Their suggestions guide our content selection. They established our social marketing presence. (Follow@tonygroundcover for the latest news from downtown Ann Arbor.) They are so much more than the people who sell the paper.

It is hard to quantify the impact on the community. Anecdotally we know that many people no longer have the same negative assumptions and attitudes regarding people struggling with housing and unemployment issues. It was gratifying to see the city of Ann Arbor and the Washtenaw County Commissioners prioritize the maintenance of safety net funding during these very trying times. They wisely recognized the wisdom in the adage, "You need the heat when it is cold outside." Perhaps our presence contributed to that decision.

The Future

Many people have asked about a Detroit street paper. Someone has emerged in the last few months who, with our support, is in the process of starting a paper there. They will get initial funding from *1Matters*, the same organization that helped us get off the ground, and they are getting a loan from Kiva, an internet based microenterprise lender. Any of us can go to Kiva.org, look through their portfolio of borrowers, and select which enterprises we want to finance.

Many safety net programs are designed to keep people's heads above water in difficult times. My vision for *Groundcover* includes a ladder for getting out of the water entirely: Asset accumulation is that ladder. We are investigating how to best implement a matched savings program so our vendors have a financial cushion to help them through emergencies and a nest egg they can use for a down payment on a place to live, a car, or a critical piece of equipment for starting their own microenterprise.

We have taken on some summer interns and will have student interns in a variety of disciplines from local universities this fall. Groundcover will likely become a student club at the University of Michigan and we look forward to interesting submissions from our university colleagues.

By this time next year, we hope to see our monthly circulation at 10,000; our volunteer corps up to 120 from its current level of 70, including at least five people willing to organize; 30 established vendors; formal relationships with at least 30 places of worship; a van for transportation on weekends and to outlying areas; stipends for critical staffers; and permission to sell at several shopping centers.

Thanks to all of you who have bought and contributed to Groundcover, we have a future and can assist those who are ready for a hand up to build a future for themselves.

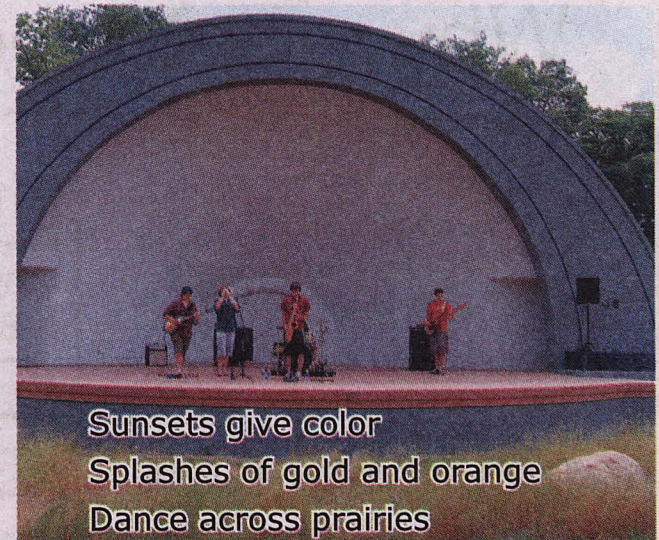
The new and improved West Park offers something for everyone

by Laurie Lounsbury
Editor

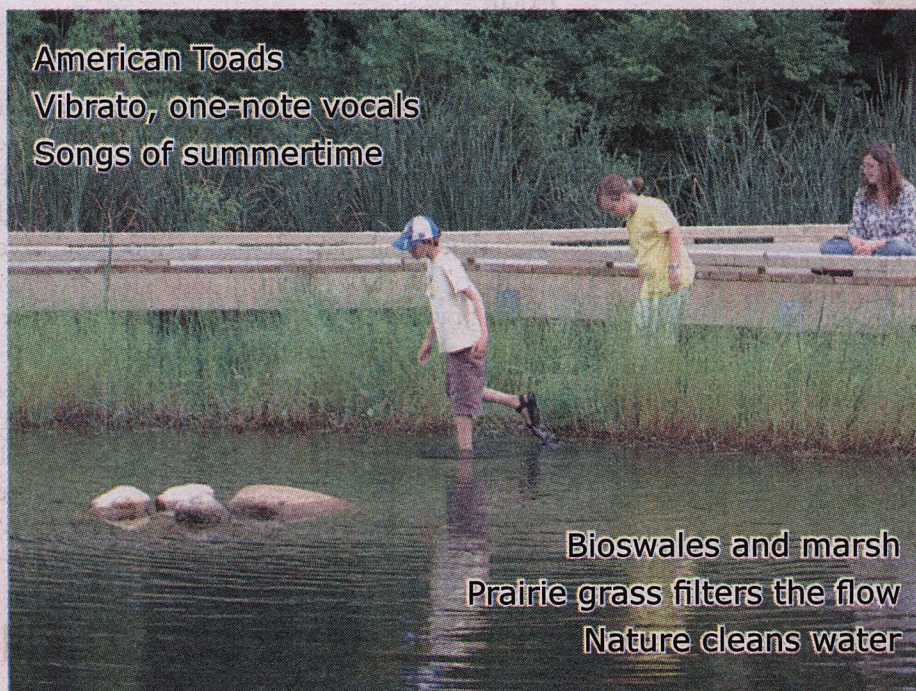
I am so smitten with the newly renovated West Park that I could write thousands of words singing its praises – but it's summertime, so I don't expect you to sit still long enough to read about West Park when you could actually be there. Until you get that opportunity, I'll try to give you a glimpse of the park with as few words as possible, using photos, captions and... Haikus.



Half-moon bandshell bids
Fans of Shakespeare and music
glad for terraced seats

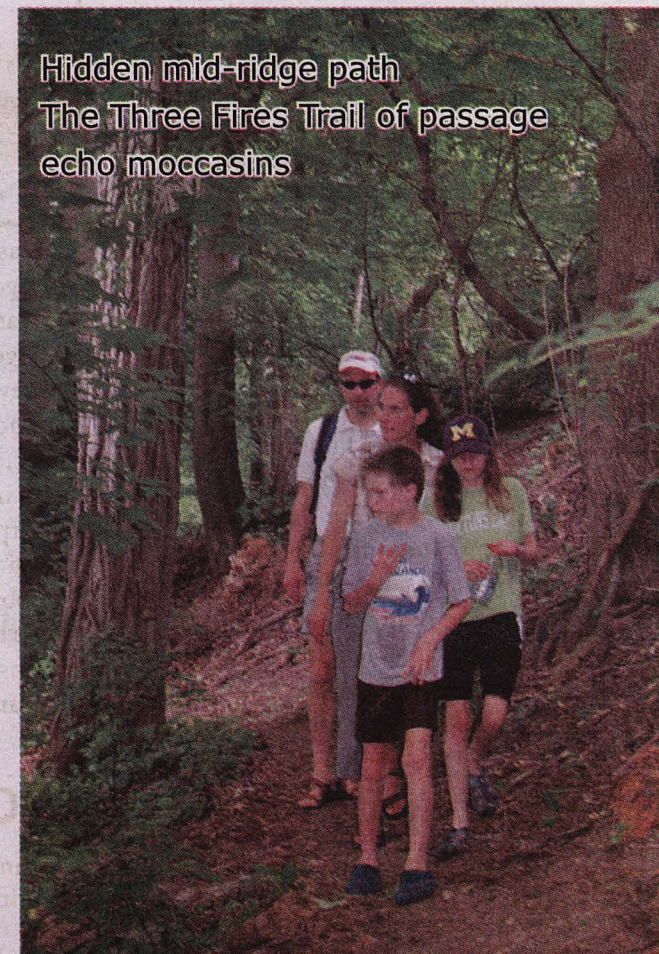


Sunsets give color
Splashes of gold and orange
Dance across prairies



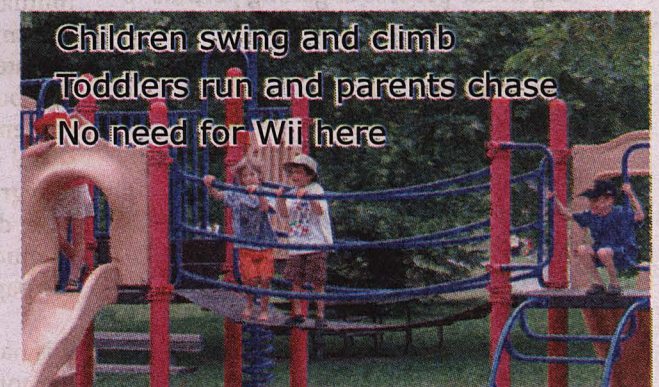
American Toads
Vibrato, one-note vocals
Songs of summertime

Bioswales and marsh
Prairie grass filters the flow
Nature cleans water

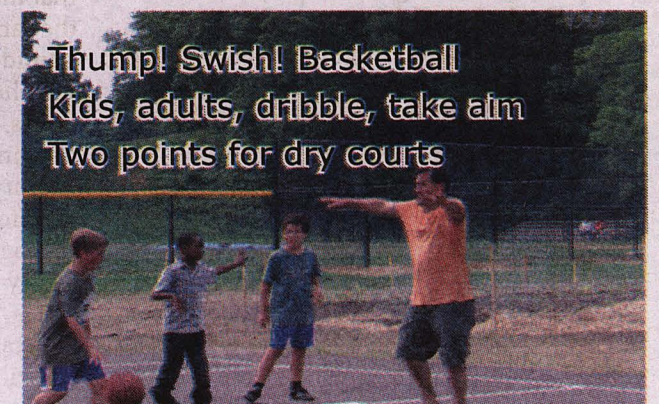


Hidden mid-ridge path
The Three Fires Trail of passage
echo moccasins

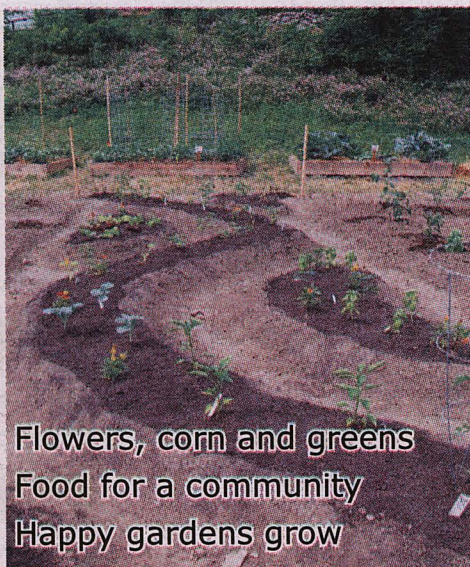
Left: Community High School teacher Cindy Haidu-Banks, with longtime friend and fourth grade teacher at Ann Arbor Open at Mack, Denise Chacon Lontin. The two women brought their students together 12 years ago to begin re-establishing the Three Fires Indian Trail through West Park. Each year, the students and teachers work to clean and improve the footpath, which is hundreds of years old. Through their dedication, they were able to secure a five-year commitment from the City of Ann Arbor, the Natural Areas Preservation and Adopt-a-Park to help restore the trail. They encourage everyone to walk the trail, because without usage, nature will reclaim it.



Children swing and climb
Toddlers run and parents chase
No need for Wii here



Thump! Swish! Basketball
Kids, adults, dribble, take aim
Two points for dry courts



Flowers, corn and greens
Food for a community
Happy gardens grow

Left: Chris Strasser, volunteer coordinator, and Lucas Digia, board member of Project Grow, were at the grand opening of West Park in late June to answer any questions visitors had about the new community garden in the park, which boasts 18 half-sized plots. Anyone interested in getting a plot can visit the website and fill out a form at: www.projectgrowgardens.org

Registration begins Jan. 1, 2012 for new gardeners, and those with existing plots can renew by March 15th.

The organization is always looking for volunteers, also known as "Gardening Angels," who help people with their garden if they get behind and need a hand. To volunteer, send an email to: volunteer@projectgrowgardens.org
The group can also be found on Facebook: facebook.com/projectgrowgardens



Umbrella gives shade
But doesn't hide a soft kiss
Keeping marriage warm

Upcoming Climate Action Events in the Ann Arbor Area

July 16 2011 - Ann Arbor Summer ReSkilling Festival

WHERE: Rudolph Steiner High School, 2230 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor, 48105

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

More info: www.transitionannarbor.org

September 24 - Moving Planet Day (an international day of climate action)

~ Events throughout area: Details TBA ~ More info: www.aa350.org



Climate change begins at home

continued from page 4

up with the City Energy Office on a Household Energy Challenge, in which participating households congenially competed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Over a hundred participating households beat the challenge's CO₂-reduction goal of 5 percent, according to the Energy Office website.

May was Commuter Challenge Month, during which employees from 200 participating organizations competed for prizes by commuting to and from work by foot, bike, or public transportation. Over 275,000 lbs of CO₂ emissions were avoided as a result, according to the website of affiliate group GetDowntown.

Mission Zero Fest, which took place June 11-12, opened to the public various homes in the community that provide examples of ways to live a more climate-friendly lifestyle. About 300 individuals showed up.

Coming up on July 16 at Rudolph Steiner High School, Transition Ann Arbor hosts their annual Summer

ReSkilling Festival, where individuals can share and learn skills that will help build community resilience in the wake of climate change.

Finally, the Ann Arbor community is ramping-up for Moving Planet Day on September 24 – another pivotal day of worldwide action intended to help catalyze global-scale political change around the issue of climate change.

"We're working with community groups to strategize around what's right for Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County, how we can move ourselves forward, and get people rallied around that day to take action," says Patel.

Taking climate action at the local level isn't limited just to special events and government programs. Business, too, have begun to capitalize on the benefits of such long-term thinking by making ecological responsibility integral to the way they operate.

One local exemplar of this progressive trend is Zingerman's Deli. An anchor establishment of downtown since 1982,

Zingerman's has a vision of what it means to care about the community in which one does business.

As part of the Zingerman's Community of Businesses, the deli's 2020 vision statement includes a commitment to having "successfully applied the model of sustainability to all aspects of our work." A detailed, corporate-wide sustainability plan is expected to be in place by this August, and starting July of next year the company's environmental impacts – including greenhouse gas emissions – will be measured and reported on routinely.

Proof of this commitment, the downtown deli expansion already in progress will be green-certified according to the international LEED standard ("silver" rating). The new construction will feature many elements of "green" design, including sourcing criteria for local and sustainable materials, new energy-efficient kitchen equipment, and the recapturing of heat from refrigeration units for heating water.

Zingerman's recognizes its responsibility to be a steward of the community. As their 2020 vision statement puts it, "We must be profitable [as a business] in order to survive but our primary purpose is to contribute to a better life for everyone we touch."

In the end, it is the collective efforts of individuals striving to create a better world that make a difference. But taking on an issue as big as climate change – really, you can't get bigger than that – can feel daunting.

"I think actually a lot of people are aware of climate change and are concerned about it. I just don't think that a lot of people feel empowered to take action," says Patel. "So that's why we do what we do."

To learn how to get involved with protecting Earth's climate and ensuring climate-preparedness in our community, to learn more about the science of climate change, and for information on related events in the area, visit AA350.org.

Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

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								1 2
9			5				2	
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	4	8	2					9

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Cryptoquote

"C JYZ XCMF IL LYQCQUYCG LMSSRIN YO

ACKYQZ VIWM ASCMF CQR NYQR

LMSS LMIN DIMMV CJIWF FAS DACF-YLO IL

GYLS."

— OWHS IMNCQ

GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employees, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will

not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff, other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to: contact@groundcovernews.com 734-972-0926

ACROSS

- Depend
- Green tea, in Japan
- Palate adjunct
- Aldehyde
- Russian veto
- Nobleman
- Plant
- Ampost's river
- Island in the Baltic Sea
- International supermarket chain
- General who surrendered at Yorktown
- Pulsar, for example
- Dined
- General who won the Battle of Trenton
- Berra
- Choose
- All About _____
- Charges
- Signer of the Declaration of Independence
- Doctors' group (abbr.)
- Prime Minister of Britain, 1770-1782
- Soft drink
- Sixth sense (abbr.)
- Compass point (abbr.)
- Lampreys
- British general and military governor of Massachusetts
- Security code (abbr.)
- Monarch
- Militia leader who captured Fort Ticonderoga
- Horse
- Arab leader
- Shirt part
- Do it alone
- General "Mad" Anthony, victor at Stony Point
- Regretful one
- Landed
- Ship
- Blunders
- Poems

DOWN

- Assessment
- Mystery
- Patios
- Finnish broadcasting company
- A penny
- Martin Caidin novel

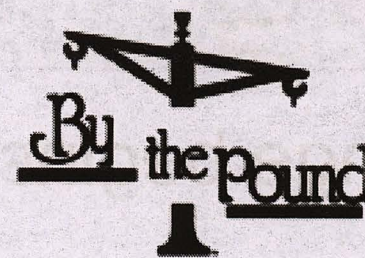
The American Revolution

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- German title
- Russian bank
- Submarine
- Continental Army encampment near Philadelphia
- Atyrau's river
- Actress Anderson
- Conjunctions
- Diminish
- Author of "Common Sense"
- Gratuities
- Interval
- Eggs
- "_____ the land of the free..."
- Procure
- Adjective suffix
- Unreturnable serve
- Female animal
- Everything

- Deciduous tree
- Indonesian bank
- California city
- Those who curse
- Oklahoma town
- General born in Connecticut, 1741, died in England, 1801
- Hockey position
- Fungi
- Comic book artist
- Kidney stone treatment (abbr.)
- Asian
- Sri Lankan cricket player David
- Village in Ireland
- Estate, in Scotland
- Paulo

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond



- Tea
- Spices
- Coffee
- Snacks
- Flour
- Beans

- Grains
- Dried Fruits
- Pasta
- Nuts
- Candy
- Baking Chocolates

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Roughin' It

by Michael Linton
Former Groundcover Vendor

Once I had a home and someone to call my own.
These days, the streets I roam; and often I'm all alone.
For granted I took life's vow; I'm so much wiser now.
Living has shown me how: to God alone, I should bow.

I'm praying everyday for blessings to flow my way.
Desperation is on display, but my patience blows it away.
I miss my favorite TV shows;
But the news is right under my nose.

In Summer's heat, sometimes I'm blue.
Winter makes me fear the flu.
Spring and Fall has me against the wall.
Storms bring my days to a crawl.

Summer Leaves are my ceiling.
Winter breezes have me freezing.
Spring rains are my shower.
Autumn temps change each hour.

Forgotten my last home-cooked meal.
A well-dressed bed, how does it feel?
Dressed to impress? Huh, yea right-
Still I won't give up without a fight.

This is roughin' it against my will;
Preparation wasn't part of the deal.
Unemployment partially paid my bills;
Employers say I've got over- and under- qualified skills
My credentials my potential reveals
I'm worthy of job, home, car and healthy relationship thrills.

Decisions at times complicate Situations;
yet, I appreciate Life's way to confirmate:
From God never deviate.



Street Music by Phil Hannuksela

Here is Amanda with her nickel/silver soprano ukelele on Main Street. The sign above her case said she wanted to make 30 dollars on a June evening to help pay for travel to Minnesota and Texas to be with friends. There seemed to be well over that in her case already, and a group of seven or eight had gathered.

Although the trumpet is her main instrument, she had brought a clarinet with her this time because that's what she's now learning. It got jammed, so she just sang to the uke.

That should get her wherever she wants to go, because her strong, agile voice easily carries that warbling style just meant for ramblin'. In her songs people are singing about the blues such as a man would get who has been in the pen and now wishes he were a "mole in the ground [who could] bring that mountain down" or a "rabid raccoon." One woman's vessel is a "tiny airplane where outer space begins."

AS-EYE-C-IT

Summertime Recipes

by Rissa Haynes
Groundcover Vendor

"Summertime and the living is easy"
??? Well that's how a familiar jazz song lyricist sees it. I see the need to help make summertime easy to enjoy relationships. Summer is the time to create fun moments with young children who are vacationing from their school regimen. Also time to create special moments with old friends and family who are resting, relaxing and having a little recreation away from their regular routines.

Since everyone has to eat, let's first facilitate some ease into preparing a few delicious meals with some quick (and healthy) recipes. By the way, your summertime recipes are welcome here at Groundcover.

Send to: Submissions@groundcovernews.com.

Tasty Meatloaf: Provided by Northside Community Church Volunteer, Carolyn Grapentire

This is one of the tastiest Meatloaves. It was served at the Free Dinner provided by First Baptist in Ann Arbor on Tuesday evenings between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Ingredients:

1-1/2 lb Ground Meat
(Beef, Turkey or Chicken)
1/4 Cup Sunflower Seeds
1 Cup Milk
1 Tbsp Worcestershire Sauce
2 tsp Italian Seasoning
1/2 tsp Salt
1/4 tsp Pepper
1 tsp Garlic Powder
1 Egg
1/2 Cup Bread Crumbs
1 small onion
1-10 oz. pkg Chopped Spinach

Directions: Mix all ingredients together well. Pat mixture into greased loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 1 hour. Serve with LOVE and use the rest of time to have some FUN !!!



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MYTHLOGIC

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Should I give a bite to eat or just cross the street?

by Bill Lopez
Groundcover Contributor

It shouldn't be this way.

I worked with the homeless for a number of years in Houston, Texas, and attempt to regularly volunteer with different organizations that address homelessness here in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Currently, I am a Public Health student at the University of Michigan, meaning words like "social structure," "disease burden," "marginalization," and "institutional poverty" frequently make their way into my dinner conversations. Thus, it goes without saying that I have strong opinions on most every aspect of homelessness. From its causes and consequences to issues of personal and social responsibility; from health insurance to drug use; from recidivism to good ole' fashioned "heartstring" tugging, I tend to have a very vocal opinion about it all. But, curiously, when I see someone on the street that is going to ask me for money, I am often caught flatfooted, with no idea of what to do. Should I give money? Cross the street? Give food? How much money? How will it be spent? Should I tell her about resources in the area?

Thoughts on handouts vary widely, with the belief on one end of the spectrum that giving money is like handing out a 40-ouncer to an alcoholic, and on the other end, the belief that keeping money is like withholding food from someone starving.

The truth? Well, I wasn't sure myself, so I took to the streets and asked a few individuals with personal experience to help me figure things out. The questions and criteria were simple. If I was asked for money, I paused and asked the panhandler two questions. First, "How do you feel when people give you food or take you out to eat in place of giving you money?" Second, "How do you feel when people cross the street to avoid giving you money?"

The answers really surprised me. People seemed to be open to receiving food instead of money, and seemed in particular to feel as though it was a the wage-earner's right to decide to keep her money or give it away. She did earn it after all. One woman said specifically that giving food "works better" because people see that she is willing to take food, not desperate for cash that she will then "spend on drugs and alcohol." One man said that if someone doesn't want to give him money, they simply

shouldn't: "I ain't desperate." Another man stated that since the person earned the money herself, it was her right to save it, and a last person echoed this sentiment, saying, "If you give me food, I don't have to do what I'm doing [panhandling]; food is my first need."

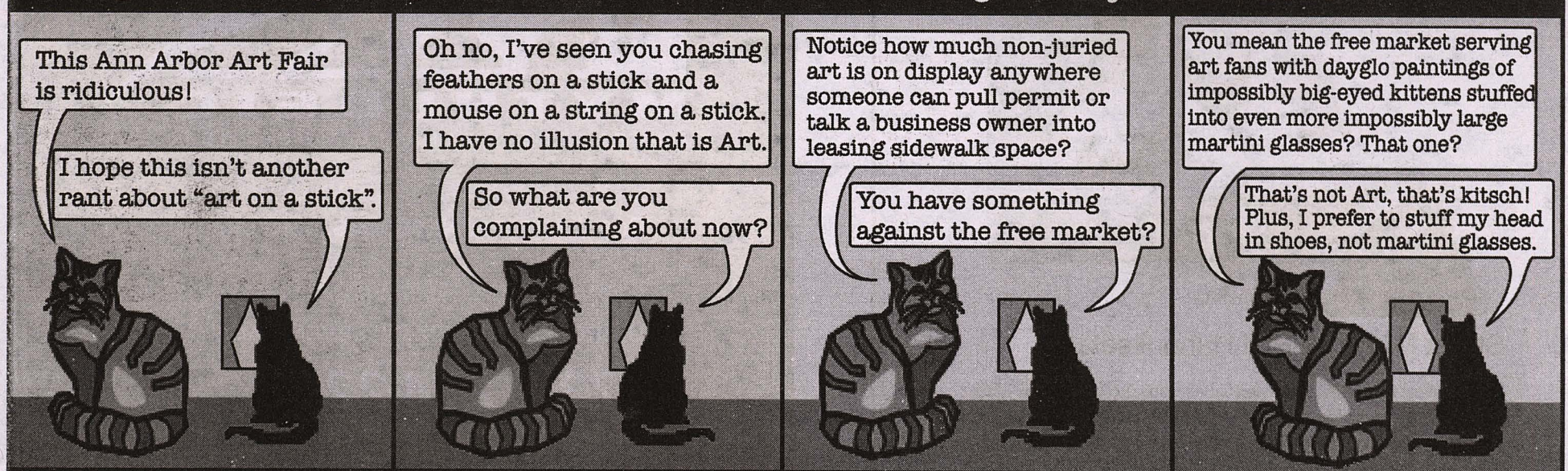
Truthfully, I believe strongly in shared responsibility; that the decisions of the middle and upper classes have repercussions on the working class, and thus I feel sort of a personal responsibility to redistribute my own wealth. In short, the "pull yourself up by the bootstraps" mentality falls apart when you actually spend time with the homeless and see the myriad issues many people have to face simultaneously. (The fact that I was born into a family with health insurance had nothing to do with my bootstrap-pulling ability). Thus, the complete lack of feelings of entitlement expressed by respondents was shocking, and rather refreshing.

The second question – how does it feel when people ignore you – drew equally surprising answers. I assumed that it would be insulting to have someone avoid eye contact with you, or to avoid you by crossing the street. After talking to a few individuals, that did not seem

to be the case. There was this clear sentiment that people can cross the street if they want to, but it's certainly not necessary. One respondent said, "They don't have to [cross the street]; I won't hurt them!" while another called it "childish." A third respondent said simply that when people cross the street, he doesn't care. A woman even complimented Ann Arborites, saying, "People from Ann Arbor are nice, so they should just [keep being nice] and not cross the street." A final respondent summed it up nicely: rather than having people cross the street to avoid him, he "would rather they [simply] not give money... There is always someone else, anyway."

So in the end, after all the reading I've done and courses I've taken on homelessness, structural racism, and other academic jargon like that, I must say that the most coherent policy on dealing with solicitation came from my conversations with these few people. Basically, give money if you want. Give food if you are worried about how your money is spent. And don't cross the street – just smile, shake a hand, ask for a name, be polite, and maybe pack an extra granola bar in your lunch next time.

Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2011



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Hey buddy, can you spare a dime? Or would you rather buy a paper?

by Shelley
Groundcover Vendor

I want to voice my observations and concerns about the difference between *Groundcover News* (GCN) vendors and panhandlers. Why is it so easy for the public just to hand a panhandler money? However, when a Groundcover vendor asks the general population to buy a paper, the same people say, "No thanks." I want to point out something that happens all too often. As people are walking by, they suddenly are interrupted by a panhandler. While I stand there with papers and watch the people give them money, I think to myself, "Why not buy from me? We are offering news and information in exchange for a \$1 donation."

Why are you giving to someone who wants a handout? What do they offer? I feel angry and frustrated when the public chooses them over me. I have talked to other vendors about this. Many of us feel it's unfair and it defeats our purpose. Most initially feel hurt or angry when this happens. For some, it leads to feeling depressed. Others channel their reaction and

conclude that the potential patron needs educating about the paper and its purpose, and set about trying to engage the person in conversation.

I sell Groundcover for three reasons. Reason one, I need cash to buy everyday items my family needs, because the amount covered by food stamps isn't enough and both my husband and I are currently unemployed. Reason two, Groundcover is an essential part of our community in that it helps people understand what low-income and homeless people go through. Reason three, I like talking with people and I feel like I'm doing something important while I look for a job.

For the record, GCN vendors are not panhandlers. This is a legitimate business! We may not sound as professional as a person with a regular job or higher education. We are just down-to-earth people trying to reestablish ourselves amidst a crisis in our lives. We also are serious about helping the public to reach a mindset of what GCN is all about. It's about helping the community become informed about poverty and

homelessness in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and other areas in Washtenaw County. It is also about helping people in a homeless or housing-challenged situation by giving them an opportunity to sell GCN instead of asking for a hand out. If I were the passerby, I would rather buy the paper from the vendor than just hand someone money. If I were rich, I would make a conscious effort to help both. It's ultimately up to you, the public, how you would like to help. Of course, you are reading this article, so you chose to buy the paper - thank you!

When you give a panhandler money, do you wonder where your money goes to? We can only guess, right? When you buy GCN from the vendor, it goes to that specific vendor. The vendors buy papers from GCN at 25 cents per copy. Then the vendor sells the publication for a dollar. We have to organize, plan and coordinate our sales efforts. We are not just asking for a handout; we are asking for a hand up (with the \$1.00 donation, of course!). Why do many people say "no thank you" to GCN vendors? Does the public think we are like panhandlers? I get that impression a lot!

When I go out and sell GCN on the weekends, it is really difficult to sell. I don't know if it's the mindset of the crowd, or because some of the crowd are visitors and feel uncomfortable about buying it. Another crowd I find hard to reach is the younger people, whether or not they are students. I know they're busy with school and other activities - but is it partly because they have an agenda to party all night?

I just want to say we need more college-aged people buying GCN. You are our future, and this is something that needs your attention. I want to reiterate that GCN vendors are legitimate business people.

In conclusion, I want to say that I appreciate your business and thoroughly enjoy talking with the public. Just to let you know, I can't talk too long since people are passing by and I may miss an opportunity to open another person's heart and mind. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtful comments on how GCN and its vendors are conducting their business.

Not helpless or hopeless, just homeless

by La Shawn
Groundcover Vendor

Men, women, and children nowadays find themselves deeply infused in this thing we call homelessness.

When people see us about, doing what we can to somehow make it through the day... not understanding the circumstances people meet our eyes, their faces full of disdain!

We're not helpless or hopeless, just under a bit of a strain, of the constantly changing economy in which for now we remain

We can change this picture if we all pitch in to bring it to a halt... This thing called homelessness! That is to stop any further despair. With this in mind, we're only merely there!

Homelessness is not a disease,

you don't catch it like a common cold from a sneeze.

It can come at a time when life is good, then turn around like a derailed train that at the start traveling smoothly about the tracks.

Situations hit us and knock us down like a boxer in a bout, knocked down in the first round flat on his back!

Donate Now

Groundcover News contributions are tax deductible. Please visit our website, www.groundcovernews.com, or send checks made out to Groundcover News to our attention at Bethlehem UCC, 423 S. Fourth Ave, Ann Arbor, Mi. 48104.

Puzzle Solutions
from page 8

CRYPTOQUOTE

"A big part of financial freedom is having your heart and mind free from worry about the what-ifs of life."

-Suze Orman

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Harvey aims for the record with his "Nude capers" art

by Laurie Lounsbury
Editor

The man simply known as "Harvey" is fairly renowned in art circles where guerilla nude photography is appreciated.

Since the 1994 Hash Bash, Harvey Drouillard (pronounced Drew-Yard) has been taking photos of nonchalant nudes milling about and mingling with unwitting clothed people at dozens of Ann Arbor landmarks, to the delight of many, except perhaps the Ann Arbor cops.

"I've only been arrested once, and the case was dismissed," Harvey said, clearly determined to dispell any thoughts that his art lands him in jail more often than not. That arrest took place at Ann Arbor's Midnight Madness in 1997, when he refused to give the police his camera after an otherwise smooth and successful, although chilly, event.

Harvey's record for a nude photo shoot stands at 19 nudes, gathered in Ann Arbor during the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair.

This year he wants to break that record.

"Whatever happens, it will still be great," he said enthusiastically. "It's always an adrenaline buzz."

The scene for this year's Ann Arbor caper will be Middle Earth gift shop at 1209 South University Avenue, and will likely take place Friday or Saturday, July 1 or 2. The exact time remains a well-guarded secret.

"I want it to be filled with anybody who's ever been involved in my work in the past, a big reunion event," Harvey said. "Whoever is there when it happens is going to be a part of the biggest f***ing thing they've ever witnessed," Harvey said with growing excitement.

Like the Lone Ranger, Harvey has his loyal Tonto to help him with the photo shoots.

Tom Leone is the man who arranges for models, brainstorms logistical analysis, schematics and event sequences with Harvey.

"I'm a Harvey booster, supporter, promoter, participator and collector," Tom said. "I believe in what he's doing."

Schematics and logistical analysis sound like pretty dry stuff for an activity that is anything but dry and dull, but it's an integral part of the photo shoots.

The two men carefully scout the location, plan where getaway cars will be waiting, where "police spotters" should stand, where the models will drop their clothes and where everyone will regroup when it's over.

When the moment of truth arrives, Harvey has about 10 seconds to get the shot. To maximize the odds of getting the perfect photo, he trains all models ahead of time to get out and back into their clothes in less than 10 seconds.

After doing this for 17 years, Harvey has captured some classic images in and around Ann Arbor, including a group of students painting "The Rock," a nude woman listening to Shakey Jake; another nude pouring coffee at the Fleetwood Diner; and a pair of unclothed women sitting at a cafe table outside of Kilwin's, to name a few.

Because he has so many iconic Ann Arbor photos, Harvey is now selling a calendar of The Best of Ann Arbor. The calendar will soon be for sale locally at Kilwin's, Middle Earth and Antelope Antiques, the latter of which is also home to his art fair booth.

Harvey is also in the process of having a website built which will be dedicated to

calendar sales. Anyone who orders online will get free shipping.

In the next 48 hours or so, Harvey can be spotted wandering around Ann Arbor, measuring the mood of people on the streets. Tom will be with him, putting out feelers for volunteer models. Anyone interested in participating in the photo shoot can reach the duo through Harvey's website: www.harveyphotos.com.

Harvey is not shy about nudity and even less bashful about self-promotion. He eagerly discusses the pilot he's working on for a reality TV series, "Mission Skin-Possible," which will show all the behind-the-scenes details of a photo shoot, right up to and including the actual shoot. "The show really takes you inside the action," Harvey said.

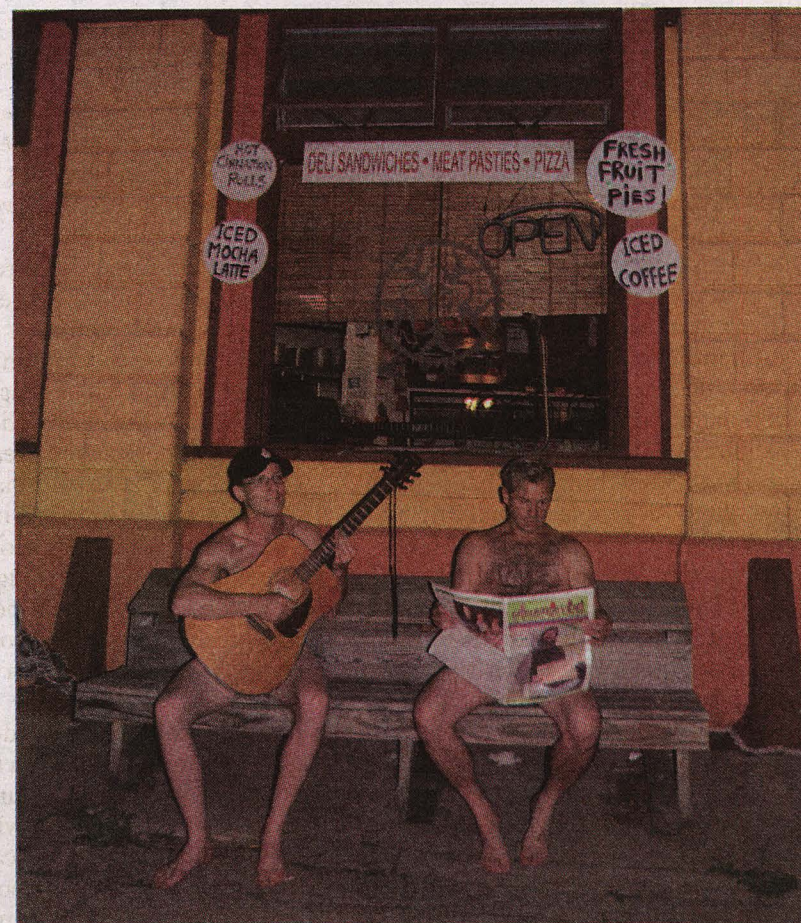
He currently has a book for sale, "The Spirit of Godiva," which features, who else? A Lady Godiva-like model riding a horse during a parade in Chelsea. The photo was taken just moments before the model was arrested, who later pleaded to a reduced charge.

While Harvey has pulled off "Nude Capers," as he calls them, in major cities all over the United States, Ann Arbor is his home, and his favorite venue.

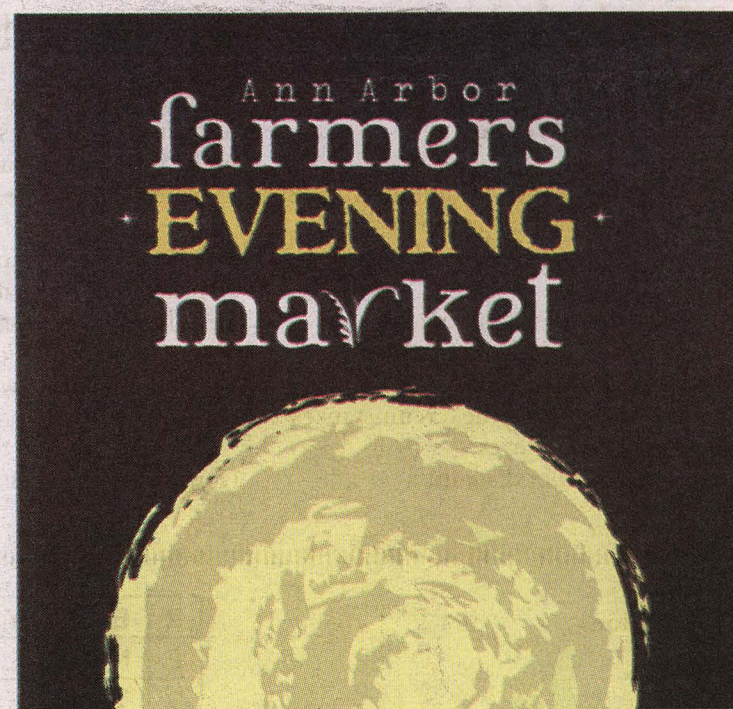
With one book completed, Harvey is already thinking about his next big project.

"I want to shoot the modern wonders to be found in the United States, starting with the St. Louis Arch," he said. Mount Rushmore is also on his to-do list. "There are so many great places to do this, the possibilities are endless."

For the month of July, however, Harvey will be sticking close to home, doing the record-breaking photo shoot and appearing at the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair later in the month.



From left: Assistant Tom Leone and photographer Harvey enjoy a little music and catch up on *Groundcover News* "Harvey Style" in front of the Big City Bakery. (photo by Laurie Lounsbury)



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